

Message Text

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ORIGIN PRS-01

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FOR FUNSETH FROM S/PRS

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OVIP, SOPN (KISSINGER, HENRY A.)

SUBJECT: TRAVELING PRESS REPORTAGE, EVENING, APRIL 29

NO. 31

NEWSPAPERS

1. LATIMES - JOHNSTON: NOTHING IN 4/29 EDITION. LATIMES
USED UPI OUT OF KINSHASA COVERING PRESS CONFERENCE.

2. HEARST (4/28) - WALLACH: FROM KINSHASA HEADLINED
"SOVIETSPROMPTED GHANA'S SNUB OF KISSINGER VISIT, U.S.
CHARGES". SOVIET AGITATORS INCITED STUDENT DEMONSTRATIONS
THAT LED GHANA TO CANCEL VISIT, SENIOR U.S. OFFICIALS SAID.
U.S. HAD PLANNED TO PROTEST FORMALLY TO MOSCOW BEFORE WORD
OF CANCELLATION REACHED KISSINGER PLANE. THERE WAS SOME
CONCERN AMONG U.S. POLICYMAKERS ABOUT CONGRESSIONAL REACTION
TO SUDDEN GHANAIAAN ACTION -- THAT IT WOULD TURN CONGRESS
AGAINST AMBITIOUS GOALS OUTLINED IN LUSAKA SPEECH.

NIGERIA, WHICH SIMILARLY SNUBBED KISSINGER AFTER PLANS HAD
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BEEEN ANNOUNCED FOR OFFICIAL VISIT, ALSO WAS SAID TO HAVE

PUT CONSIDERABLE PRESSURE ON GHANA.

WALLACH NEWS ANALYSIS PIECE FROM LUSAKA ENTITLED, "FORD, TAUGHT BY ANGOLA, STANDS TALL IN RHODESIA". FORD WAS SO CONSCIOUS OF POLITICAL REPERCUSSIONS OF NEW U.S. AFRICA POLICY THAT HE INTRODUCED KISSINGER AT LAST WEEK'S CABINET AND NSC "ON BASIS OF PRESENTING THEM WITH A DECISION."

KISSINGER, APPARENTLY AWARE OF HIS CONTROVERSIAL POSITION IN WHITE HOUSE, TWICE CALLED SCOWCROFT ON EVE OF LUSAKA SPEECH TO "MAKE SURE THERE WAS COMPLETE UNDERSTANDING." THIS FOLLOWED WEEKS OF LOBBYING BY KISSINGER, INCLUDING LONG PRIVATE SESSIONS WITH FORD AND BRIEFINGS FOR FULL NSC.

SPEECH IS ALMOST CERTAIN TO ANGER CONSERVATIVES WHO HAVE SUPPORTED SMITH REGIME. BUT MOST SERIOUS CHARGE LIKELY IS THAT U.S. SUCCUMBING TO PRESSURE FROM AFRICAN LIBERATION MOVEMENT TO PROTECT ITS DETENTE POLICY WITH SOVIETS.

ADMINISTRATION OFFICIALS CONCEDE NEW AFRICAN POLICY WILL NOT BE HELPFUL TO FORD IN NEXT WEEK'S TEXAS PRIMARY NOR SUCCESSION OF SOUTHERN PRIMARIES.

WHY DID FORD TAKE POLITICAL RISK? COMMUNIST VICTORY IN ANGOLA FIRMLY ESTABLISHED CUBANS AND SOVIETS IN AFRICA. MOST AFRICAN LEADERS DID NOT WANT THIS. U.S., IN SEEKING SUPPORT FOR SOUTH AFRICA, BECAME IDENTIFIED WITH RACIST COLONIALIST. ABOVE ALL, U.S. DID NOT WANT TO BE DRAGGED INTO VIOLENT CONFRONTATION IN RHODESIA.

THUS KISSINGER, TRYING TO REVERSE TREND, HAS OFFERED AMERICAN COMMITMENT TO HELP NEGOTIATE CHANGEOVER TO MAJORITY RULE IN RHODESIA AND PROMISE OF ECONOMIC AID. KISSINGER ALSO STRUCK RESPONSIVE NOTE BY APPEALING TO AFRICANS TO SOLVE THEIR OWN PROBLEMS. KISSINGER HAS MOVED BOLDLY TO RESTORE U.S. CREDIBILITY IN AFRICA.

IMPACT OF THIS ON PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS DIFFICULT TO ASSESS BUT A U.S. POLICYMAKER SAID: "IT'S FIRST TIME IN A LONG TIME WE ARE DOING WHAT'S MORALLY RIGHT AND I UNCLASSIFIED

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CAN'T HELP BUT THINK THAT ULTIMATELY IT WILL BE SEEN THAT WAY BY AMERICAN PEOPLE."

WIRES

1. UPI - ANDERSON: KISSINGER DEVELOPED A STOMACH AILMENT TODAY AND CANCELLED PLANS FOR SIGHTSEEING TOUR, AMERICAN OFFICIALS REPORTED... KISSINGER WHO ATTENDED A LATE BANQUET

IN HIS HONOR, SHOWED NO SIGNS WEDNESDAY OF AILMENT, WHICH IS COMMON TO VISITORS TO WEST AFRICA...

SECRETARY WAS ORIGINALLY SCHEDULED TO FLY TO GHANA THURSDAY BUT GHANAISANS ASKED HIM TO CANCEL... U.S. OFFICIALS SUSPECTED SOVIETS OF PRESSING GHANA TO CALL OF VISIT. GHANA DENIED ACCUSATIONS AS "WHOLLY UNFOUNDED."... GHANA WAS FOURTH COUNTRY TO BE DROPPED FROM KISSINGER'S ORIGINALLY PLANNED ITINERARY. MOZAMBIQUE HAD TO BE SKIPPED BECAUSE ITS MARXIST PRESIDENT REFUSED TO INVITE KISSINGER, NIGERIA CANCELLED BECAUSE OF ANTI-AMERICAN SENTIMENT AND CURRENT UNREST, AND IVORY COAST WAS DROPPED BECAUSE ITS PRESIDENT WAS OUT OF COUNTRY.

2. REUTER - NELSON: KISSINGER SUFFERING FROM AN UPSET STOMACH AFTER A NIGHT OUT CANCELLED HIS SCHEDULED ACTIVITIES HERE TODAY. HIS ILLNESS FORCED CANCELLATION OF A PLANNED TOUR OF AN ARTS MUSEUM AND THEKINSHASA MARKETPLACE AS WELL AS A LUNCHEON WITH ZAIRE PRESIDENT... HE IS CURRENTLY SCHEDULED TO LEAVE TOMORROW FOR LIBERIA TO CONTINUE HIS TOUR... U.S. OFFICIALS WERE UNABLE TO EXPLAIN AN APPARENT CONTRADICTION BETWEEN KISSINGER'S STATEMENT AT A NEWS CONFERENCE LAST NIGHT THAT U.S. HAD NO PLANS TO PROTEST AGAINST CANCELLATION OF VISIT TO GHANA AND REPORTS FROM WASHINGTON THAT STATE DEPT HAD ALREADY PROTESTED TO GHANA, NIGERIA AND SOVIET UNION. U.S. HOLDS SOVIET UNION AND NIGERIA RESPONSIBLE FOR PUTTING PRESSURE ON GHANA TO CANCEL VISIT AT LAST MINUTE. NIGERIA CANCELLED A PLANNED VISIT THERE BY KISSINGER EARLIER.

TELEVISION

1. ABC EVENING NEWS - REASONER: KISSINGER CANCELLED A UNCLASSIFIED

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SIGHTSEEING TOUR TODAY IN ZAIRE TO NURSE A BAD STOMACH. OFFICIALS SAID IT WAS NOT A DIPLOMATIC COMPLAINT, BUT RATHER THE RESULT OF EATING TOO MUCH WILD BOAR AND TOO MANY EXOTIC PLANT LEAVES. KISSINGER FLIES TO LIBERIA TOMORROW.

2. NBC AND CBS - NO WORD OF KISSINGER AFRICAN TRIP ON THESE NETWORKS.

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